

**Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Act**  
**Medicaid Infrastructure Grant**  
**Advisory Group**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 24, 2003**

The Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Group Meeting was called to order by Co-chair Robert Simola at 10:45 AM, on Thursday July 24, 2003 at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, 6161 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV, Building 1, Multipurpose room.

**Members in Attendance**

Nina Davenport, National Multiple Sclerosis Society/South  
Tracy DuPree, Nevada State Welfare Division/ North (by telephone)  
Robert "Red" Foster, General Public Northern Nevada  
William Heavilin, Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center  
Robin Renshaw, Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents/ South  
Robert Simola, Ormsby ARC/North  
Alyce Thomas, Nevada Division of Mental Health & Development Services

**Members Not in Attendance:**

Kimberli Vare, Skill Builders of Nevada  
Terry Hardy, General Public  
Paul Gowins, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living  
Lisa Erquiaga, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living/Fallon

**Staff:**

Connie Anderson, Chief of Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Services  
Jean Laird, Contract, Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act  
Priscilla Hartsfield, Contract Admin. Asst. Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act  
Harry Snoek, Social Services Program Specialist III TWWIA  
Jeanne Schrauth, Administrative Assistant II TWWIA

**Others Present:**

Loretta Wilson, Personal attendant to Red Foster

**I. Roll Call**

Jeanne Schrauth called the meeting roll. Bob Simola counted and announced that a quorum was present and the meeting would proceed.

**II. Introduction of New Staff to Advisory Group**

Connie Anderson made some brief introductory remarks introducing Harry Snoek, Social Services Program Specialist III and Jeanne Schrauth Administrative Assistant II to the Advisory Group members. Each Advisory Group member proceeded to introduce him- or herself with some background to the new staff members.

**III. July Meeting Minutes Approval**

The June meeting minutes were reviewed and Alyce pointed out that she works for the Division of Mental Health & Developmental Services. Bill noted the correction for the record. Alyce moved that the minutes be accepted with the changes noted. This was seconded by Red Foster. The minutes for the meeting on June 19, 2003 were accepted with changes as noted.

**IV. Legislative Update on HIWA (Health Insurance for Work Advancement)**

Connie Anderson addressed the Advisory Group on the subject of Legislative Update. A budget has been approved, but the revenue to fund it is still in limbo. The fiscal people as of this date have not yet had a chance to review it because of some adjustments being made to the Welfare case load. When they do that it affects the Medicaid budget. When Ms. Anderson gets the final word from the fiscal people, she will meet with Harry and review it with him. Harry will then send out an e-mail to the Advisory Group on the status of HIWA and Ticket to Work.

## **V. Staff Projects Status Update**

### **a. Policy Development**

Harry Snoek reported that he had met with the Department of Information Technology on Monday 7/21/03. He will be making this a major focus at least initially to get all the technology together so that the Buy-In will be able to be implemented and be a smooth process by the implementation date of July 1, 2004. His aim is to get the information technology portion done well in advance of the implementation date.

Harry will also be working on policy and procedures. A high level outline was distributed to the AG members for their review. He will be following this outline in developing the policy and procedures for the program.

### **b. Section 1619 Outreach (Section 1619 (a) and (b) of the Social Security Act**

A question was asked on status of Outreach, section 1619. Mr. Snoek apologized and responded that all he had been able to do is read the pamphlet, but that it was a very good pamphlet. Requests were made for pamphlets by the Advisory Group members.

### **c. “Partners for Profits” Conference Update**

Mr. Snoek advised the members that the Division is still supportive of the conference. Information has been relayed to our office that the conference will be held early in 2004. It is not going to be held in 2003.

### **d. “Ticket Team” Consumer Handbook Update**

Mr. Snoek advised that he had read the handbook and he thought it was great. There is \$29,000 set aside to spend this year on the printing of a handbook or a brochure. Bill Heavilin expressed concern that it was taking too long a time to get out, since the program has been function since November of 2002. Ms. Laird asked if anyone wished to make any revisions to the handbook as it now stands. Robin Renshaw & Bill Heavilin both stated that it looks good as is.

#### **e. Workplace Personal Assistance Brochure**

Alyce Thomas and Bill Heavilin expressed the opinion that it looked like it would be very expensive to duplicate the brochure. Alyce suggested purchasing some from the people who created the brochure. Bill suggested that we see if we can get them free. Both Connie Anderson and Jeanne Laird felt that we should be able to get more as we are members of APHSA. Ms. Laird felt that since we are members of APHSA we should be able to get this brochure free. It was agreed upon that this brochure being customize is low priority the original brochure will do with a Nevada stamp or label. Staff will contact APASHA and see what cost, if any, is associated with these brochures.

### **VI. Old Business**

#### **a. New members for Advisory Group**

It was decided to fill the two vacant places on the Advisory Group. Some concern was expressed by Connie Anderson in regards to who will bring the new members up to speed. The current staff would not have the time to do this so a commitment from the Advisory Group to educate their new members needs to be made. The Group agreed that this should be their responsibility to do an orientation for the new members.

The names that have been submitted are Linda Raymond, Jesse Harris and Margaret Wise. The appointment of new members will be made by Connie Anderson.

### **V. New Business**

#### **a. Revision of By-Laws**

After some discussion of the by-laws the advisory group decided to leave them as is at this time. This was brought to vote by Alyce Thomas and seconded by Robin Renshaw, and approved unanimously.

### **b. Election of New Co chairs**

It was decided to elect Co-chairs again, one from the north and one from the south. Alyce Thomas was nominated as were Tracy DuPree and Paul Gowins. Alyce was elected and there was a tie between Tracy DuPree and Paul Gowins. This was broken when Mr. DuPree voted for Mr. Gowins. If Mr. Gowins, who was not present chooses decline, Mr. DuPree agreed to accept the Co-chair from the north.

### **c. Bob Simola & Bill Heavilin-Fourth Annual Service Coordination Conference**

Bob Simola & Bill Heavilin were to attend the Fourth Annual Service Coordination Conference August 5th, 6th, 7<sup>th</sup>. They will report to the Advisory Group how it went during August meeting.

Jeanne Schrauth is to gather promotional materials for Bob Simola to pick and take to the conference for distribution.

## **VI. Group Report**

### **a. Robin Renshaw—Transition Forum**

Robin had nothing to report at this time.

## **VII. Public Comment**

Loretta Wilson from Carson City NV asked if smaller companies would be able to benefit from the programs. Anyone can be helped, even an individual. Mr. Heavilin recommended she speak to someone at Social Security who might be able to help with questions.

## **VIII. Future Meetings**

A discussion took place trying to set the location for future meetings. The meeting in August will be in Fernley. Per Mr. Renshaw's request the September meeting will be in Las Vegas. October will be in Minden. November will be in Pahrump and December will be in Reno.

Meeting concluded at 12:35 PM

